



SARASOTA
GARDEN CLUB

Highlights

- President's Message
- Events & Event Reviews
- and lots more

"The Blooming Chatter"

NEWSLETTER

December – 2025



Poinsettias Flowers

Proud members of:
District VIII, Florida Federation of Garden
Clubs, Inc.,
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Contact Us

**1131 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236**

Email:

Office@SarasotaGardenClub.org

Facebook.com/sarasotagardenclub

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

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Most up-to-date and more information on the website:

SarasotaGardenClub.org

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President's Message



The Holidays are upon us!

We shared great food, family and friends and hopefully some relaxation too but, I want to take this time for a few quick updates on SGC happenings for you to know.

If you need to send a payment, our Treasurer, Dorinda Wilkinson has opened **P.O. Box 893, in OSPREY, FL 34239**. Membership renewal is coming up and this PO Box is the preferred method of payment.

Dorinda has also added an 'In-kind donation' form for anyone donating something other than monies. This is online (under SUPPORT) for your convenience.

Our BOD wishes to offer a food drive for Christmas. Please bring any canned/boxed goods to SGC on any of the upcoming December events. It will then be taken to All Faith's Food bank.

Angela Bennick has set up an educational program of creating a "Holiday Tropical Swag" for December 10th. You will be instructed by a career florist, and our member, Sarah Munford. **What fun this will be! Angela has also taken on the role of Recording Secretary – THANK YOU.**

Carol Lackey has accepted the role of organizing the "Arbor Day" activity to be held at New Gate School. We have the tree to plant, and a teacher there to help organize. THANK YOU.

The RHYTHM & *Blooms* flower show schedule is completed. Please look at the SGC website for this, with horticulture/design forms to enter now!! Need help?? Contact Dianne Beaver, Sue Angle or myself to answer any question you may have on getting yourself going with this. We are flower show judges and are here to help!! And Ann Madden is your go-to for Horticulture-related issues (see later in BC).

We have a member who has applied for the Community Service Design Award and two Photography Awards. We wish her good luck and know we will get good news soon.

I hope to be seeing you on Sunday, December 7th at HOLIDAY Music in the Gardens. We all know Livy and her volunteer team are planning a scrumptious layout of treats for us to enjoy.

In the meantime, I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving each of you and please, do enjoy those you are with and Happy Gardening.

Emily (and Stella) - President@SarasotaGardenClub.org

Dates for your Calendar

Events in 2025		
December 7	HOLIDAY Music in the Gardens	Hospitality
December 10	Make & Take Workshop: Tropical Holiday Swag	Education
	Flower Show Committee Meeting (1pm)	SGC
December 17	GMMM: Climate Change, Science & Solutions – Michelle Marinangel- Part II	Programs

Events in 2026		
January 8, each Thursday until January 22	Start of 3-week FFGC Floral Design Study Series – Advanced Units	Manatee Garden Club
January 16	Florida Arbor Day at New Gate School (am)	SGC
January 21	GMMM: Petticoat Painters in Person	Programs
January 26	Preparing for “Rhythm & Blooms” Flower Show	Education
January 29	Civic Beautification Awards Luncheon	Civic Beaut.
February 11	GMMM: Coral Reef Renewal Review	Programs
February 21	“RHYTHM & Blooms” 84th Flower Show	Education
March 11	GMMM: Hurricane Restoration in the Garden	Programs
March 21	Gardens In Paradise Garden Tour	GIP
April 14-17	99th Annual Convention & State Flower Show	FFGC
April 22	SGC Annual General Meeting Gardens of the Region (1886-1920’s)	Programs
April 28	Off-site visit to Sunken Gardens, St Petersburg	Education
May 20	GMMM: Myakka River State Park presents: An Invitation to Learn about our Partnership with Florida Wildlife	Programs

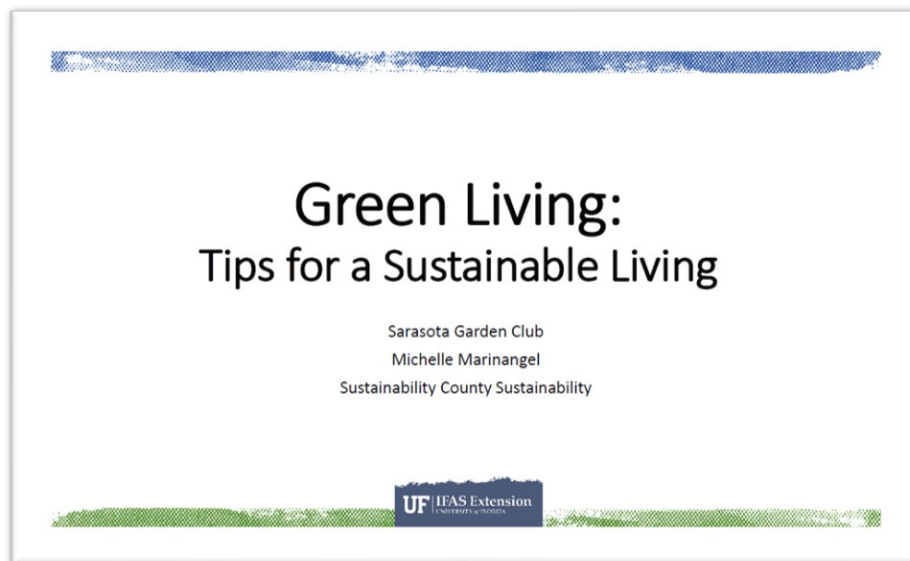
DATES CAN SOMETIMES CHANGE- [always check the calendar on our website](https://sarasotagardenclub.org/calendar/)
<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/calendar/>

November's GMMM



The Member Social at our General Members Monthly Meeting on November 19th rocked, with lots of conversation and laughter, friends greeting friends, and meeting new members - while enjoying delicious food that surrounded a beautiful edible centerpiece.

Thank you to Michelle Marinangel, Sustainability County Sustainability for her presentation



CLICK ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION, with lots of useful links and contacts

Following the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, six new members were introduced and presented with a gift of a plant and the club's Yearbook:

Moe Chifton (far right), who retired and came to Sarasota from Peekskill, NY. There she belonged to and was active in a Federated Garden Club enjoying Flower Shows, Jr. Gardeners and Plant Sales.

Tiffany Fromm (not in photo) lives nearby and came to the Garden Club last Friday where Jann Richardson invited her to join our club. Tiffany enjoyed working hard in the garden and returned to the club on the 19th to join. She loves gardening and herbal remedies.



Also, two Mother/Daughter sets joined:

Becky Allenbach (2nd from right) who just retired from the Federal Government's Environmental Protection Agency had gone on the Bay Architectural Tour and learned about our Garden Club. She is passionate about the environment and gardening. Becky's mother Gail Bradeen (in yellow cardigan) has her own garden at her home and looks forward to joining Becky in the Friday garden group.

Mary Hollis (2nd from left) and her daughter Livia (far left) currently live in St. Petersburg, go to church in Sarasota and plan to move here in the near future. They both attended the District VIII Fall Meeting hosted by Temple Terrace Garden Club in October, meeting gardening friends and learning about Garden Clubs and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Another daughter, Alysia (3rd from left), came on the 19th as a guest.

Guests: Sam Takahashi and Wendy Depasse were introduced and welcomed.

Following a short meeting, a very interesting program was presented by Michelle Marinangel of UF/IFAS Sustainability Department who shared information on "Living Green", Sustainable Living with Local Resources. [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD HER POWERPOINT](#)

The beautiful Mum plants which were given by the Membership Committee and placed at each Committee table space, were won as door prizes by lucky members.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Committee Chairs of Botanical Gardens, Scholarships, Civic Beautification, Gardens In Paradise, Communications, Flower Show, Programs, Education, and Membership each manned a table and talked with members about the workings of their committees during the Social Time. Several members signed up for committees of their choice and the Membership Committee was very happy to welcome Becky Allenbaugh and Tiffany Fromm to our Membership Committee.



Left: Angela Bennink, Education Chair
Right: Lynda Wright, Programs Chair
who were just 2 of the Committee Chairs
– Gale on Membership, Ros on Flower Show, Kelly on GIP, Jim on Civic Beautification, Jann on Botanical Gardens
– thank you to everyone.



Special thank you to
Jann Richardson for her
spectacular fruit
displays



We're looking forward to seeing you at the December 17 meeting – bring a friend with you!!

Sue Angle, Membership Chairman Sueangle000@gmail.com - (941) 350-9784

Renewal of Membership

As we approach the end of the club's financial year (Dec 31), we ask you to renew your annual membership.

We hope you'll agree that this year's program has started off extremely well with our GMMM, Education and social events, and we've lots more to look forward to next year, especially with "RHYTHM & *Blooms*" flower show and "Gardens in Paradise".

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1. Online here: <https://sarasotagardenclub.org/membership-2026/> or
2. **Send your check of \$95, made to the Sarasota Garden Club and mail to our new address:** Sarasota Garden Club, Dorinda Wilkinson, Treasurer, P.O. Box 893, OSPREY, FL 34229 (see form on next page)

ORDER YOUR BADGE

We will shortly be placing an order for MAGNETIC MEMBERSHIP BADGES - \$15 each. Orders can be placed:

1. On the website - under Membership / Order Magnetic Name Badge
<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/order-name-badge/>
2. Via email to: financeoffice@sarasotagardenclub.org (place order and send check for \$15 payable to Sarasota Garden Club) and mail to: Sarasota Garden Club, PO Box 893, OSPREY, FL 34229

Membership Renewal can be done online:

<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/membership-2026/>

or print and complete the form below and

send, with check, to Dorinda Wilkinson. Note the new PO Box address.

THANK YOU – we appreciate your membership.



Membership Renewal Form

"Celebrating 99 years: 1927 – 2026"

Member name	
2 nd Member name if applicable	
Address	
Email	
Phone	

Agreement & Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that I want to continue to participate in the activities of the Sarasota Garden Club. I will continue my support its mission and objectives to the best of my ability.

Signature	
Date	

Annual Dues January 1 through December 31:

\$95 for Single, \$180 for Couples, \$83 for Single with FFGC Life Membership.

**Please make checks payable to Sarasota Garden Club and
Mail to: Sarasota Garden Club, PO Box 893, OSPREY, FL 34229**

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org / FinanceOffice@SarasotaGardenclub.org

Monthly Floral Designs in Sarasota Libraries

November brought bursts of color and creativity to Selby Library and Gulf Gate Library, enhancing the space for our community's enjoyment.



Sarah Munford created a stunning Thanksgiving-themed design. She ingeniously stacked a birdbath and a salad bowl to hold a vibrant display of roses and chrysanthemums, complemented by a table arrangement of fresh fruits and vegetables. Sarah kept her beautiful creation fresh for 10 days, much to the delight of Selby Library visitors!

Our talented members also brightened Gulf Gate Library with two designs. On the second Wednesday of the month, Barbara Rao placed her lovely creation with fresh sunflowers. Later in the month, Sue Angle added another design, crafted with dried then painted plant materials.



The display tables at both locations are always stocked with Sarasota Garden Club flyers, information about upcoming events, and a Feedback Box. We've been thrilled to receive many encouraging comments from the public!

Be sure to visit the libraries to see our continued floral artistry:

- Selby Library: Every 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Gulf Gate Library: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

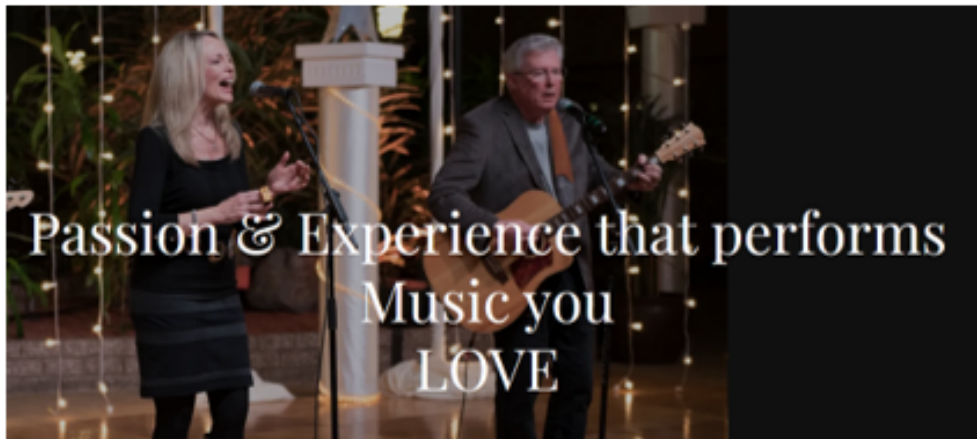
We are continuing this rewarding project through the new year. If you are a member interested in designing and placing a display at either library, we would love to hear from you!

Deborah Alves deborahcsalves@yahoo.com 203-722-5276

Sue Angle sueangle000@gmail.com 941-350-9784

HOLIDAY Music in the Gardens

Bring Your Friends



COME JOIN US
FOR HOLIDAY FUN

Join us at our historic clubhouse and beautiful gardens down by The Bay, **1131 Blvd. of the Arts** for the annual ...

"HOLIDAY Music in the Gardens" **with E.J. Ray Acoustic**

A great opportunity for you and your family and friends to enjoy the surroundings, inside and out, with refreshments provided by the Club, accompanied by this amazing band performing classics you know, love and want to hear and dance to (*optional*)!

Sunday December 7 | 6 – 8:30 PM | join us for:

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org

Members - \$30

Non-members - \$35

Call Kelly on 941-718-3359
if you need help

- **"Music" by – E.J. RAY Acoustic**
performing classics from Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty, Eric Clapton, Bill Withers and more [CHECK THEM OUT ONLINE](#)
- **Hors d'oeuvres, champagne & wine**
by the Hospitality Committee

Education Event

Reserve Your Place

Sarasota Garden Club
EDUCATION Committee Event
Wednesday December 10, 2025



“Make & Take Workshop” Holiday Tropical Swag



**Another wonderful Education
event for you to enjoy:**

**Come along and create your own version of
a “Holiday Tropical Swag” to decorate your
home over the holiday period.**

**Floral Designer, Sarah Munford, will demonstrate
how to create a beautiful hanging swag or table
decoration – using Floridian flowers, foliage
and decoration.**

**MEMBERS ONLY
(Max 24)**

Wednesday December 10

**Doors open 9:30am, for
prompt start at 10am
Expect to finish around 12 noon**

Reserve your place ASAP by
contacting Angela Bennink

AngelaBennink@yahoo.com

908-902-0266

Sarasota Garden Club will supply all
the necessary materials and tools to
create a display – but you are
encouraged to bring along your own
foliage and/or ornaments to
personalize your design to match your
decor (e.g. shells, ornaments, fruit,
coordinating ribbon, etc.)
Maybe bring your clippers too.

**Please bring your
own refreshments.**

FFGC Floral Design Study Series

This week concluded the NGC Design Classes 1 through 6 at Sarasota Garden Club. The theme was "Florida" and the participants executed fantastic arrangements using skills they had learned and confidence they have gained in their creativity.

Thank you to all the "students," the instructors, and those members of Sarasota Garden Club who made it happen. What a great experience for all.

Be sure to check out and continue your studies with Classes 7, 8 and 9 starting in January and hosted by Manatee River Garden Club Inc in Bradenton.



FFGC Floral Design Study Series
Advanced Units 7, 8, & 9
Thursday January 8, 15, & 22, 2026
Manatee River Garden Club, Inc. Bradenton
REGISTRATION FORM
Manatee River Garden Club, Inc.
3120 First Avenue West, Bradenton FL 34205

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

10:00 – Class begins

Registration Fee

Advance registration for 3 classes & workshop	\$ 60.00 for Full Course
Registration for morning lecture/demonstration	\$ 20.00 per class

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

_____ Advance registration for Full Course \$ 60.00
This includes morning lecture/demonstration and afternoon workshop.
January 8, 15, 22, 2025

Weekly registration for morning lecture/demonstration only

_____ January 8, 2026	\$ 20.00	Instructor: Janice Hamlin
_____ January 15, 2026	\$ 20.00	Instructor: Parke Finold
_____ January 22, 2026	\$ 20.00	Instructor: Claudia Bates

_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

CHECK # _____

Please make your check payable to MRGC and send with this Registration Form to:
Rita Mixer, 9527 Antiqua Cove, Bradenton FL 34210
Study materials will be provided to you prior to the first class.

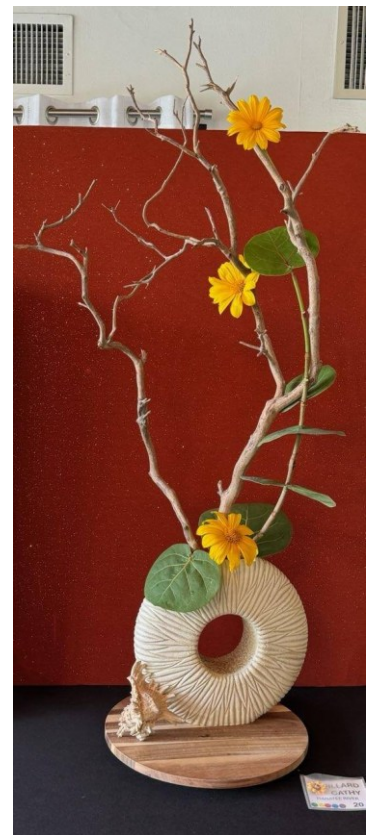
Such fun being with plant and flower people.



The instructors have been very impressed with the standard of floral design that's been achieved by the students of this class – so have the students!!!!







RHYTHM & Blooms Flower Show

I know there is much excitement about the "RHYTHM & Blooms" Flower Show - and everyone's been awaiting information so that they can look at which Design or Horticulture entry they may make.

**EVERYTHING IS ON OUR WEBSITE -
CLICK on this link:**

<https://sarasotagardenclub.org/events/event/sgc-64th-flower-show-rhythm-blooms/>

1. There's the Flower Show **SCHEDULE** - the rules of the show, with details of the Design and Horticulture classes
2. There're **forms** for you to use to enter Design and Horticulture classes
3. And for those of us that don't know all the names of plants, there's a document that shows the Horticulture classes with photographs of the plants listed. Additional help available from Ann Madden (see below)
4. Another useful link is to the **NGC FLOWER SHOW HANDBOOK** - CLICK [HERE](#)

CLICK ON THAT LINK AND READ ALL ABOUT IT
If you have any questions, contact the appropriate Flower Show Committee Chair (see below) See over



RHYTHM & *Blooms* – Committee Chairpersons

Garden Club President	Emily Yaffe	941-780-7808	president@sarasotagardenclub.org
Flower Show Chair & Co-chair	Shari Amato Becci Bond	941-320-4532 941-284-6770	shari@mailmt.com beccibond@hotmail.com
Awards Chair	Cheryl Scheid	901-786-3466	carscheid@gmail.com
Clerks Chair	Angela Bennink	908-902-0266	angelabennink@yahoo.com
Division I DESIGN Chair	Dianne Beaver	941-780-2949	diannebeaver@gmail.com
Division II HORTICULTURE Chair Classification Chair Placement Chair	Sue Angle Ann Madden Carol Fugate	941-350-9784 609-713-5233 240-577-5541	sueangle000@gmail.com alm419@gmail.com kennethfugate523@gmail.com
Division III EDUCATION Chair	Shari Amato	941-320-4532	shari@mailmt.com
Focal Point	Annarita Scott	941-504-1205	annaritascott@aol.com
Hospitality (Hostess) Chair	Adrienne Wagner Carolyn Michielsen	941-726-907 269-830-7700	johnadri@comcast.net chmichielsen@yahoo.com
Judges Chair Judges Lunch	Emily Yaffe Olivia Haynes	941-780-7808 941-400-1710	president@sarasotagardenclub.org thinkolivia@gmail.com
Photography Chair	Angela Bennink	908-902-0266	angelabennink@yahoo.com
Publicity	Christy May	781-258-6022	christymay@gmail.com
Facebook	Carol Lackey	215-518-8479	pr@sarasotagardenclub.org
Schedule	Dianne Beaver Becci Bond	941-780-2949 941-284-6770	diannebeaver@gmail.com beccibond@hotmail.com
Signage/logo	Deborah Alves	203-722-5276	deborahcsalves@yahoo.com
Sponsors	CJ Danna Christy May	954-461-9155 781-258-6022	danna.cj@gmail.com christymay@gmail.com
Staging	Gloria Thomas	941-321-3159	gtsarasota@comcast.net
Website	Becci Bond	941-284-6770	communications@sarasotagardenclub.org

Flower Show Donation Form

Thank you to those that have already donated to help cover the costs of the show and make it a success. If anybody else would like to make a donation, please use the form below.



Flower Show Donation Form

Please know that we are very appreciative of your donation.

It makes a real difference!

THANK YOU



DONOR INFORMATION:	
Donor name (to be listed in the Flower Show Program)	
Donation Amount	\$
Check #	
Credit Card #	
Name on Card	
Expiration Date	/ /
Code	

Please make checks payable to: Sarasota Garden Club

and send to: Sarasota Garden Club, PO Box 893, OSPREY, FL 34229

www.SarasotaGardenClub.org / FinanceOffice@SarasotaGardenclub.org



SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB - FLOWER SHOW 2026

HORTICULTURE ENTRY FORM

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ON THIS FORM OR SAME INFORMATION VIA EMAIL

To: Sue Angle: Sueangle000@gmail.com or 6972 Country Lakes Cir, Sarasota, 34243

Pre-Registration is required. Entry Deadline is **Tuesday February 12, 2026**



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ SGC MEMBER: Yes / No

PLEASE LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY SECTION

LIMIT TOTAL 10 ENTRIES PER ENTRANT

SECTION	CLASS	REQUIRED: GENUS, SPECIFIC EPITHET (SPECIES/VARIETY/CULTIVAR/CROSS) IF KNOWN COMMON NAME/FLOWER COLOR
A - H	1 - 61	e.g. <i>Strelitzia</i> (bird of paradise)



SARASOTA GARDEN CLUB - FLOWER SHOW 2026

DESIGN ENTRY FORM

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ON THIS FORM OR SAME INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO:

Dianne Beaver	941-780-2949	diannebeaver@gmail.com
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Pre-Registration is required. Entry Deadline is **February 1, 2026**



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ SGC MEMBER: Yes / No

PLEASE LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY SECTION

LIMIT TOTAL 10 ENTRIES PER ENTRANT

SECTION	CLASS	CLASS TITLE
A / B	1 - 6	e.g. Symphony of Color

Extra Hort Help? "ASK Ann"!



Thank you, Ann Madden, who says:

"If anyone has questions or concerns about the Hort entry cards, their plant names, etc., etc., that's what I'm here for!

I love this stuff and look forward to helping!

Email alm419@gmail.com, text or phone call 609-713-5322, meet up; anything works!

Gallery of succulent Plants

Those members that went to the Succulent Society and created a Dish Garden for entry in the show, but don't know the names of the plants they bought Ask Ann, there are also some books in the SGC library, but BELOW IS ANN'S FAVORITE SUCCULENT SITE:

<https://www.succulent-plant.com/thumbnails.html>



A great source of information – and of course, you could always send Ann a photo of your plant if you can't find what you're looking for online.



News from the Botanical Garden

No doubt most of you will have seen the high-rise buildings that are going up adjacent to our botanical garden – it's looking like the "Central Park of Sarasota" – a little oasis in the mass of high-rises. Thank goodness The Bay is working so hard to improve the local area with free and beautiful resources for everyone.



Thank you to the Friday Garden Volunteers who work in the garden every

Friday from 8-11am





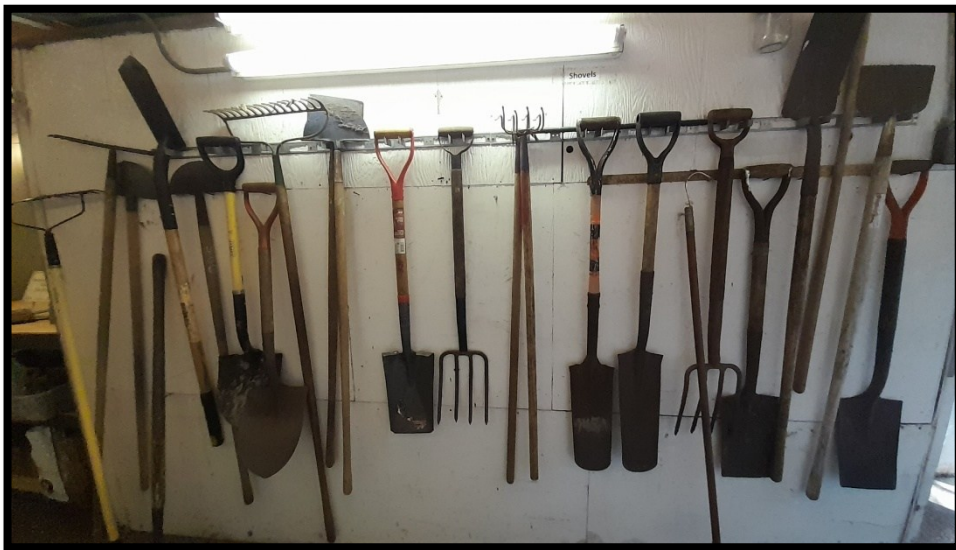
(above) Here's Carol Fugate, Tony and Kay getting down and dirty!



The garden's looking lovely, and the investment in the water feature has really paid off.



Thanks to Jann Richardson and her team for all the hard work and organization that's gone in to tidying up the 'shed', improving the look of the garden, and introducing 'craft' type projects for those that do not feel up to gardening – love the new craft workstation (below):



My father
would have
been proud of
this tidiness

Come along ...
8-11am
Fridays – do
what you can.



SGC Members at the Sarasota Succulent Society

SGC Members met at Sarasota Succulent Society and enjoyed a tour, lunch and succulent workshop put together by our Education Committee Co-chairs, Angela Bennink and Ros Stafford.

If you have never visited this treasure of a garden and grounds, it's a must see for all. Open Mondays 9 to 12 as a work day for volunteers and public shopping (many plants for sale) and on their special open days. **Next one is Saturday, February 14th!**

Look at all the lovely planters we made! We each brought our own vessel and the SSS provided the plants for purchase.

<https://sarasotasucculentsociety.org/>



[Lots more photos on Facebook, please take a look!](#)

We're expecting lots of succulent entries in RHYTHM & Blooms!



FFGC State Convention & Flower Show

April 14 - April 17 2026

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando,
Lake Buena Vista South**

[CLICK HERE](#) AND/OR VISIT THE FFGC.ORG WEBSITE
FOR FULL INFORMATION



AN NGC MAJOR STANDARD FLOWER SHOW
The 40th Biennial State Flower Show

This is an annual state-wide event, and the fact that it is being held in OUR state this year, makes it an unmissable event for our members. THAT, combined with the Biennial State Flower Show is WONDERFUL.



THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING

The 99th Annual Convention

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

April 14-17, 2026

Sponsors will receive recognition in the Convention Program Book.

PRINT CLEARLY **CHECK HERE IF DONATING ONLINE:** _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

SPONSOR NAME: _____

DONATION	SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
\$25 - \$99	Whimsical
\$100 - \$499	Enchanting
\$500+	Spellbinding

PAYMENT BY MAIL: Mail a check **AND** a copy of this form to:
Jana Walling, Treasurer, 2121 Olivia Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32308

Checks are payable to: FFGC

Check Memo Line: List Sponsor Name

ONLINE PAYMENT AT: [FFGC.org/donate](https://ffgc.org/donate)

Scroll down the page to fill out the donation form.

Select: Convention Sponsorship Payment

Email a copy of this form to: Emily Yaffe, Sponsorship Chair
eyaffe13@yahoo.com

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in the state of Florida. Donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor. FFGC tax number EIN 59-0907136

Mable Ringling Fountain

One of

SIX
TO
SAVE



On November 13, [Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation](#) held its announcement event highlighting “SIXToSAVE” in conjunction with [Miracle on Mound](#).

Thank you to those of you that attended to represent the club – with our close association with Mable!

“Miracle on Mound is dedicated to restoring scenic downtown Sarasota Park back to its historic grandeur for all to enjoy” – Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain is in Luke Wood Park – their plan is to bring a hidden gem of a historic fountain and scenic natural park back to life.

SGC is denoted on the permanent plaque there, saying Sarasota Garden Club members supervised the care of these 12 acres for 20 years. The park had walking paths with loads of plants, 216 palms, a landscaped ravine, 500’ irrigation well, the Mable Ringling Fountain, a pair of marble lions, and a bird sanctuary.

This park plan had been designed by local architect Thomas Reed Martin.



Please stop in to see it for yourself and envision our past ancestral members caring for this park and tending to it.

It fell into disrepair due to the Great Depression.

Gardens In Paradise (GIP)

Early-bird tickets make great Holiday Gifts



**Gardens
in Paradise**

**11th Annual Sarasota Garden Club
*Premier Garden Tour
of Private Gardens***

**Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
*Rain or Shine***

Early Bird Special December 1st-31st: \$35 per person
Advanced Reservations: \$45 per person
Day of Tour: \$50 per person

Group rates available upon request



For More Information & Reservations
www.SarasotaGardenClub.org
941-718-3359
gip@sarasotagardenclub.org

More news coming soon!

Member's Featured Garden

Ruta Skendeliene recently joined our club, and is proud to share her garden photos and experience with us.

Everyone moving to Florida finds the flora and fauna here exciting, especially as 'the right plant in the right place' can produce a colorful and abundant display.



**We moved to Sarasota
from Chicago.
Good people are
welcome to our
unapologetically wild,
loving, and friendly
garden!**

When I (Becci Bond) first moved here from England, a SGC member explained Florida gardening to me as: "cut it down and it'll be back with a vengeance in a week". Boy, things sure grow down here!

Ruta explains:

It took me several years to establish a flourishing, healthy, and happy landscape based on horticulture and wholesome gardening philosophy with no herbicides, pesticides, or weed killers.

Our garden took on its unique shape, which not all our neighbors appreciated. I was surprised to find that anyone could be offended by the blooms, birds, bees, and butterflies abundantly thriving in our garden but, as with a lot of Florida communities, restrictive Home Owners Association rules were in place.

Thankfully Sarasota County backed us in the attempt to save the garden, and Florida laws protected our little paradise. It took a few years, but we ended up as winners.

Besides the plants, we breed butterflies, we were certified as a Florida Friendly Landscape, and acknowledged as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.





Bee-YOU-ti-FULL!

The National Gardener 2025 Fall Issue

TNG-2025 Fall Issue-V1.0



Lots of useful information

Follow Sarasota Garden Club on Facebook:



For News and Photos from SGC

See Posts from like-minded organizations

Please "Like" and "Share" Posts to increase awareness of the club

*Comment from The SGC Blooming Chatter
Editor: Becci Bond (the Brit)*

FIRST AND FOREMOST – A HUGE Thank you

to everyone that contributes to the Blooming Chatter with content, photographs, insight and information (historical and current), comments etc.

The more the merrier – send your comments, input, announcement, 'whatever', to:

Communications@SarasotaGardenClub.org

It is my personal goal to inform the Club Members of the activities of the Sarasota Garden Club so that they may join in, get the most out of the club's activities, enjoy themselves, meet like-minded folk and make friends, make suggestions on how to improve the club, entice you to get more involved, introduce new members

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